

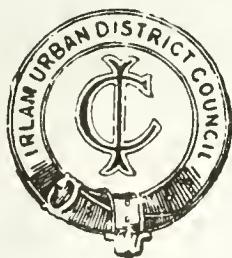
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1937





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AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1937



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Area (Statute Acres) | 4,717 |
| Population (Registrar General's Estimate, June, 1937) | 14,360 |
| Population (Census 1931) | 12,901 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (per Rate Book) ... | 3,952 |
| Rateable value | £78,194 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £304 |
| Total Rates | 12/9 |

2. VITAL STATISTICS

| | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Live Births—Legitimate ... | 138 | 108 | 246 |
| Illegitimate ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Stillbirths | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Birth Rate | ... | ... | 17.2 |
| | Males | Females | Total |
| Deaths | 79 | 53 | 132 |
| Death-Rate | ... | ... | 12.0 |
| Deaths from Puerperal causes... | ... | ... | Two |
| Deaths of infants under one year of age | ... | ... | Fourteen |
| Deaths from Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | One |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... | ... | ... | Two |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | Fourteen |

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937

●

I beg to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

General employment was good ; 136 new houses were erected ; births exceeded deaths by 116 ; yet the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population in the middle of June was given as 14,360, a decrease of 40 below the figure for the previous year. In view of the general industrial expansion in the district necessitating many employees at the local works who have been living outside the area to reside within the district, it is difficult to understand such a reduction, and I am firmly convinced that a local census would reveal a substantial increase rather than a decrease.

The birth-rate of 17.2 is a substantial increase over last year's figure of 15.6, and during the last ten years has only been exceeded on two occasions—in 1933 and 1928 when the rates were 18.0 and 19.0 respectively.

Other points of statistical note are the increased infantile death-rate, and slight reductions in the number of deaths from cancer and organic heart disease.

The number of infectious diseases notified shewed a great reduction below the previous year's figures.

With regard to diphtheria, I reported favourably on the possibilities of introducing a scheme for the immunisation of children between the ages of 1 and 14 years of age, and after discussion the matter was deferred until the end of the financial year.

The cost of such schemes is apparently the chief difficulty to the smaller urban districts, and if some financial assistance were forthcoming, I feel sure many authorities would be prepared to undertake schemes.

Departmental reports for past years often are referred to not only for their statistical contents, but for information of general chronological character, and I am honoured to be able to place on record that 1937 will be remembered as the Coronation year of

Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. A further appropriate reference may be made to the centenary anniversary of another great Coronation. And in the words of Sir Arthur S. MacNulty: "it is not unprofitable to reflect on the remarkable progress that has been made in national health and medicine in the hundred years that have elapsed between the Coronation of Queen Victoria and that of King George VI."

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam in Lancashire is roughly square in formation, with sides over three and a half miles long.

The district boundaries on the North march with those of Tyldesley, Worsley and Leigh, on the South with the Manchester Ship Canal, on the East with Eccles and on the West with the banks of the River Glaze.

A considerable area of the great Chat Moss comes within the district and, being unfit for building upon, is almost all under cultivation.

The residents are thus provided with an area quasi-rural in character, which makes a relieving contrast to the industrial nature of the district on its southern borders.

Irlam provides the usual material amenities for its residents in the form of drainage, gas and water mains, telephone and electric cables. The municipally-owned dwellings provide excellent accommodation for many working-class families, and parks and playing-fields are maintained in convenient situations for public use.

POPULATION.

The resident population of Irlam estimated by the Registrar General in June, 1937, was 14,360, an increase of 1,459 over the 1931 Census figures.

The increase during the year of births over deaths was 116.

In addition to the resident population large numbers from outside journey daily to and from the various works in the district.

From information furnished by the principal employers it is estimated that over 7,000 persons were employed in the district at the 31st December, 1937. Of this number over 40% resided in other districts.

BIRTHS.

Boys 139 Girls 109 ; Total 248.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 248.

This gave a birth rate of 17.2 per 1000 of the population, as against 15.6 for the previous year.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population for the whole of England and Wales for 1937 was 14.9.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were fourteen deaths of children under one year of age during 1937 (males 10, females 4).

The infantile death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales was 58.

The following table gives the infant mortality rate for this district during the past five years:—

| 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 48 | 95 | 48 | 39 | 56 |

DEATHS.

Males 79 ; Females 53 ; Total 132.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 86 but deducting 2 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 48 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts the corrected number was 132.

This gave a death-rate of 12.0 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 11.6 in 1936.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.4 per 1,000 of the total population.

Table of deaths in the several wards:—

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Irlam Ward | 17 | 17 | 34 |
| Irlam Central Ward | 22 | 12 | 34 |
| Cadishead Central Ward | 12 | 11 | 23 |
| Cadishead Ward | 28 | 13 | 41 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 79 | 53 | 132 |
| | — | — | — |

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND INQUESTS.

During the year there were sixteen deaths (10 male, 6 female) registered in which the causes of death were not certified by medical practitioners.

There were fourteen inquests held and the coroner's verdicts were as follows:—

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Natural causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Accidental | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Asphyxia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

CANCER (MALIGNANT DISEASE)

There were fourteen deaths from cancer (3 males, 11 females), giving a rate of 0.97 per 1,000 of the population.

CLASSIFIED DEATHS FROM CANCER.

| Localisation | | | | | | | 1936 | 1937 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Tongue and Mouth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Pharynx | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Oesophagus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Stomach | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| Respiratory Organs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Pancreas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Liver | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Intestinal Tract | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Generative Organs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| Breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Other or Unspecified Organs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Total | | | | | | | 16 | 14 |
| Deaths from all causes | | | | | | | 128 | 132 |

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

Thirty deaths, giving a death-rate of 2.08 per 1,000 of the population.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

Fourteen deaths (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases) giving a death-rate of 0.97 per 1,000.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The period under review shewed an impressive reduction in the number of cases notified; the total for the year being 80, compared with 105 in 1936.

Scarlet fever was largely responsible for the decrease; the number of cases (34) being a great improvement on the previous year (64).

Unfortunately, one death was recorded from scarlet fever; the last death from this disease being in 1935.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

| Disease | No. Notified | Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 34 | — | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 15 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 24 | 2 | 10 |
| Erysipelas | 5 | — | — |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 80 | 4 | 12 |

Disinfection was carried out as in previous years by spraying infected rooms with formalin solution and fumigating with vapour. Disinfectants are supplied free.

ANTI-TOXIN.

Supplies of diphtheria anti-toxin are stocked for the use of medical practitioners. Sixty-five 8,000 unit phials were distributed during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following is a statement of the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from this district during the year. The examinations of sputum for human tuberculosis are carried out at the laboratory of the District Consultant Tuberculosis Officer. Other specimens are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory of the Victoria University of Manchester.

| Diphtheria | | Typhoid Fever | | Tuberculosis | |
|------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Total | Positive | Total | Positive | Total | Positive |
| 53 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 76 | 10 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table:—

| Age Period | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F. | M | F. | M | F | M. | F |
| 0-1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1-5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5-10 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10-15 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15-20 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 20-25 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 25-35 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35-45 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| 45-55 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55-65 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 65 & over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 7 | 3 | 3 | — | 5 | 2 | 1 | — |
| | 10 | | 3 | | 7 | | 1 | |

Ten cases received sanatorium treatment during the year.

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There was no change in the provisions previously recorded, which briefly were as follows :—

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For general purposes the hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Davyhulme were utilised.

Cases of infectious disease necessitating isolation treatment were removed to Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford.

The Urban Council is a party to a special agreement with the Manchester Corporation for the treatment of smallpox cases at the Clayton Hospital.

With regard to hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, a circular letter was received in May, 1937, from the Clerk of the County Council stating that the County Council had formally approved a scheme for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious diseases made in pursuance of Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

In the scheme for the treatment of diseases other than smallpox, the Irlam Urban District is included in Area XXV; which also includes the boroughs of Eccles and Stretford and the Urban Districts of Urnston and Farnworth.

For the provision of accommodation for the treatment of smallpox, Irlam is included in Area XIV along with the Borough of Eccles.

The scheme was approved but not in operation at the end of the year. A detailed description of the scheme will be given in the report for 1938.

The Public Assistance hospitals for the area are at Patricroft and Davyhulme.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

No day nurseries, tuberculosis dispensaries or clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases are provided in the district.

The Council makes annual contributions to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities and the Eccles Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) Infectious cases are removed in the motor ambulances provided by the Salford Corporation.

(b) A motor ambulance is provided and maintained by the Council, and is available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident or sudden illness, and by arrangement for cases requiring hospital or surgical treatment. The service was adequate. Statistical information as to the use and cost of the Council's service is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MORTUARY

Nine bodies were brought into the mortuary during the year, (residents 8, non-residents 1).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following have been adopted by the Council :—

| ACT | Date of Adoption |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (part 3) | 7th Oct., 1896 |
| Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890... | ... 20th Sept., 1896 |
| Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 3, 4 (section 67), 5, 6 and Sections 93 and 95) | ... 24th Oct., 1910 |
| Private Street Works Act, 1892 | ... 2nd Mar., 1925 |
| Public Health Act, 1925, (sections 21, 22 and 44, and Part 5) | ... 26th June, 1926 |

BYE-LAWS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| With respect to New Buildings, etc. | ... 20th Sept., 1926 |
| With respect to Parks & Pleasure Grounds | ... 5th April, 1927 |
| Respecting the Trade of Fish Frier, made under the Islam (Offensive Trade) Confirmation Order, 1927 | ... 5th Sept., 1927 |

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the local District Nursing Association the services of two nurses are available for general nursing. The Association is entirely voluntary.

There is no employment of (or subsidy to) practising midwives in the district by the Council. The Midwives Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There were five midwives practising in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There are two clinics in the district, and sessions were held once a week throughout the year on Wednesdays. Good attendances were maintained.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two maternal deaths were notified in this area during 1937.

The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales was 3.11. Enquiries respecting maternal deaths in this district are made by the County Medical Officer of Health.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the County Council inspecting staff, and, in addition, your local officials make periodical inspections with regard to sanitary arrangements generally.

One elementary school was closed for two weeks early in the year owing to an outbreak of influenza.

TABLE I

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death for the Year 1937. Classified under the Headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

| Cause of Death | Males | Females | Totals |
|----------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | — | 1 |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | — | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Other Tuberculosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cancer | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Heart Disease | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 1 | — | 1 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 2 | — | 2 |
| Peptic Ulcer | — | 2 | 2 |
| Influenza | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Other Puerperal Diseases | — | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | — | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Debility, Prematurity, etc. | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Senility | 1 | — | 1 |
| Suicide | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other Violence | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Other Defined Diseases | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| Totals | 79 | 53 | 132 |

TABLE II

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS of WHOLE DISTRICT for 1937 and Previous Years

| Year | Births | | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District | | Transferable Deaths | | Net Deaths belonging to the District | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-----|--------|-----|-----------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|--------|----------------------|
| | Population of Each Year | | Births | | No. | Rate | Of Non-Residents Registered in the District | Of Residents Registered outside the District | Under 1 yr. of Age | | At all Ages | | |
| | | | M. | F. | | | | | Total | Rate | | Number | Rate per 1000 Births |
| 1933 | 13,030 | 110 | 95 | 205 | 15.7 | 101 | 7.75 | 5 | 52 | 10 | 48 | 148 | 11.3 |
| 1934 | 13,120 | 98 | 101 | 199 | 15.1 | 89 | 6.78 | 3 | 51 | 19 | 95 | 137 | 10.4 |
| 1935 | 14,000 | 104 | 104 | 208 | 14.8 | 83 | 5.9 | 2 | 46 | 10 | 48 | 127 | 9.0 |
| 1936 | 14,400 | 125 | 101 | 226 | 15.6 | 88 | 6.11 | 4 | 44 | 9 | 39 | 128 | 11.6 |
| 1937 | 14,360 | 139 | 109 | 248 | 17.2 | 86 | 6.12 | 2 | 48 | 14 | 56 | 132 | 12.0 |

Area of District ... 4,717 statute acres.

Population census 1931

12,901

TABLE III

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1937, other than Tuberculosis

| Disease | Total No. Cases | Un'er 1 | At Ages—Years | | | | | | | | | | Ward Distribution | | | | Cases Remov. to Hosp. | Total Deaths |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | Over 65 | Irlam Cen. | Cadis. Cen. | Cadis. Cadis. | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 34 | | 2 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 4 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 23 | 7 | 4 | | 1 |
| Diphtheria ... | 15 | | 1 | | | 10 | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| Pneumonia ... | 24 | | | | | 2 | | | 7 | 6 | | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 10 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Erysipelas ... | 5 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals ... | 80 | | 3 | 2 | 5 | 31 | 5 | | 11 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 12 |

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1937

●

I have the honour to present my report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The Council's programme for dealing with houses regarded as unfit for habitation has been continued, and particulars of action taken during the year will be found in the text of the report.

Attention is directed to the fact that although a total of 49 demolition orders were made during the two years of 1936-37, only 14 houses were actually demolished during that period. In explanation, I have to point out that this apparent lack of progress was largely as a result of the Council's praiseworthy decision to face the moral responsibility of rehousing displaced tenants.

However, following a special report on this matter submitted in December, it is pleasing to record that a definite advance in the progress of rehousing began to take place immediately, and at the end of the year the early demolition of the majority of houses under Orders was anticipated.

With regard to overcrowding, the number of cases has been reduced considerably. At the end of the year 21 houses were overcrowded by 21 families. It was apparent, therefore, that the overcrowding existing was not due to any economic inability to pay the rents of available houses, but rather to the fact that families have outgrown existing accommodation.

The three new cases of overcrowding discovered during the year were abated by informal action.

The Public Cleansing Service continued slowly to expand, but the increasing demands of the district were adequately met by your permanent cleansing staff without the need for employing any appreciable amount of extra labour.

With regard to the removal of trade refuse, the scheme put into operation at the beginning of April has proved most successful, both from the shopkeeper's point of view and our own. The pre-payment ticket system soon became popular, and although the income derived from the extra service may almost be regarded as negligible, the principle involved became firmly established. And it only remains to be said that the scheme is in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936, which incidentally did not come into operation until the scheme had been six months in existence.

During the year, 28 licences to store 718,100 gallons of petroleum spirit and 4½ tons of calcium carbide were issued.

In view of the comparatively large quantities of petroleum stored in the district it was thought expedient to revise the conditions under which licences are issued. This was done and an abstract of the relative provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928, together with advisory notes on the construction of storage plant were approved and printed for the guidance of those intending to construct new installations.

Close co-operation with the housing estates manager has resulted in an appreciable amount of good work being done. The Housing and Public Health Committees have much in common and mutual assistance has been the rule rather than the exception, throughout the year.

Bug infestation and rat repression, to mention but two items of interest, have on more than one occasion busily engaged the attentions of both departments. And in connection with the latter, joint action resulted in the Council approving regulations for the control of poultry-houses on the estates.

Details of other matters are contained under the various headings of the report, and it only remains to express satisfaction with the way in which the staff as a whole has performed its duties, and this I do, without exception.

Yours obediently,

L. F. ATHERTON,
Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the Urban District is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation only nine properties in outlying parts being supplied by the Warrington Corporation. Supplies were constant and of good quality.

In connection with complaints that were received towards the end of the year of water containing traces of suspended solids, four samples were taken from domestic supply taps and submitted to chemical and bacteriological examinations.

Whilst on aesthetic grounds objections might reasonably be expected, it was ascertained that the presence of such solids was not of any hygienic significance. Several water-mains were being repaired or relaid at the time, and when regular flushing operations resumed, no further complaints were received.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Frequent inspections of rivers and streams were made, and one case of pollution caused by the drainage percolations from an industrial tip entering the river Glaze, was reported to the inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers Board.

The owner of the tip was interviewed and undertook to prevent further cause for complaint.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Council's housing estates and a large part of the Cadishead area are drained on the separate system ; the remainder of the district on the combined method.

Apart from a few isolated houses on the moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers

Sewers and drains are regularly flushed.

The large sewer follows the course of the main road, and is provided with two storm-water overflows, (Platts Brook and Irlam Brow).

The Activated Sludge system is the method employed at the Council's sewage works, and a satisfactory effluent has been maintained. Frequent samples were taken by the inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers Committee.

The sewage is brought to the works by gravitation, and, on arrival, passes through detritus chambers and a preliminary tank, after which it is screened. Thence over a rectangular weir it flows into the mixing chamber where it is intimately mixed with the sludge from the re-aeration tanks. The mixture then passes into the aeration units and from these flows to the settlement tanks. Here, the sludge settles to the bottom, leaving the clear effluent to pass into the feed channels and eventually into the river Glaze. The sludge is forced into the sludge channel which leads to the re-aeration tanks, where, after a period of re-aeration, it again is mixed with the incoming sewage in the mixing chamber. Thus the continuous circulation is maintained.

The surplus sludge is run into a lagoon and, after digestion is run off and dried on specially prepared beds. The sludge is regularly removed.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following particulars are given of conveniences in the district at the end of 1937 :—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| No. of fresh-water closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,739 |
| No. of waste-water closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| No. of privy-middens | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| No. of pail-closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the period under review the Department has been actively engaged in the investigation and study of atmospheric pollution.

In an industrial area frequent complaints from residents may be expected ; a district such as Irlam will at no time be entirely free from the consequences of its present phase of occupation. But there is no reason why many of the nuisances causing complaint should not be reasonably abated.

The Council, therefore, approved a recommendation to make a byelaw prescribing that black smoke emissions exceeding three minutes in the aggregate in any continuous period of thirty minutes, from any one chimney, shall be deemed to be a nuisance.

The byelaw, proposed under Section 104 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, was in course of preparation at the end of the year. Meanwhile, smoke observations were taken regularly and, when excessive emissions were recorded, visits were made to the works offending and managers interviewed.

It is gratifying to note that several employers have authorised their stokers to attend courses of lectures and demonstrations on fuel economy and smoke abatement. One cannot too often reiterate that : “ the stoker is handling money—in the shape of fuel— and on his skill depends whether or not that money is wasted.” Courses of instruction for stokers are most necessary, and in connection with this it is pleasing to be able to record that employers are beginning to realise that the employment of unskilled labour for stoking is unprofitable. The care of furnaces and boiler plant is skilled work, and the day is perhaps not far distant when a certificate of competency will be a *sine qua non* for every stoker.

Adequate plant with efficient stoking would together go a long way towards the abolition of industrial smoke nuisances. But it provides much food for thought when one can turn back and find that these simple principles were being advocated over forty years ago !

Unfortunately, in this district, the smoke problem is inseparably connected with other industrial nuisances such as the emission of foul gases and fine dust. The processes causing this type of nuisance are under the supervision of H.M. Inspector for the Alkali, etc. Works Regulation Act. During the year the inspector visited this district on numerous occasions and this department assisted him in his investigations by supplying relevant information whenever possible.

Turning from the question of industrial to domestic smoke, it has been stated that, owing to the increasing use that is being made of gas, electricity and smokeless fuels, some improvement on the domestic side has resulted. Many would, no doubt, interpret this as too optimistic, especially so when daily one can look around one's own district and see thousands of uncontrolled domestic smoke-screens. However the official reports of the departments concerned do carry a certain amount of conviction, and one can only express the hope that the progress reported will continue.

Thirteen householders were prosecuted by the police during the year for firing domestic chimneys.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The Council has adopted bye-laws for the regulation of the trade of fish-fryer, and these, generally have been complied with.

The fifteen premises where fish-frying is carried on were visited regularly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS

During the year, the following visits were made:—

| Nature of Inspections | | | | Number of Visits |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| General sanitary work (Public Health and Housing Acts) | | | | 374 |
| Housing inspections (Consolidated Regulations, 1925/32) | | | | 47 |
| Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Food shops and premises | ... | ... | ... | 132 |
| Factories and workshops | ... | ... | ... | 95 |
| Public cleansing service | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Re infectious diseases | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| Re Shops Act, 1934 | ... | ... | ... | 134 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 66 |

COMPLAINTS

101 complaints were received during the year, details of which are as follows :—

| Nature of Complaint | Number Received |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Housing defects | 18 |
| Choked or defective drains | 13 |
| Accumulations of refuse, etc. | 3 |
| Verminous houses | 10 |
| Nuisances from smoke and fumes | 11 |
| Nuisances from keeping animals | 5 |
| Rat infestation | 4 |
| General insanitary conditions | 21 |
| Miscellaneous | 16 |
| | <hr/> 101 <hr/> |

In every case where a complaint was found to be bona-fide, action was duly taken.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) | 136 |
| (1) By the Local Authority | 22 |
| (2) By other Local Authorities... .. | 2 |
| (3) By other bodies or persons | 112 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : | |
| (1) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (1) above) | 22 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above) | None |

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) | |
| (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 305 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 305 |

(2)

(a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 47

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 47

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9

(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 45

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their Officers 57

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By owners 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners None

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made None

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit None

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 21

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 21

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 146

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 25

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 179½

Fifteen cases of overcrowding in Council houses and three cases in houses on which demolition orders were operative have been relieved during the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The majority of houses in the district are of the working class type. General housing conditions may be considered satisfactory, and no difficulty is experienced in the execution of repairs by owners.

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

One hundred and sixty-six preliminary and 10 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department :—

HOUSING

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Defective house walls repaired | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Gutters and downspouts repaired | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Windows and sash cords repaired | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Ceilings and walls re-plastered | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Leaking roofs repaired | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| New sinks provided | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Defective floors reconstructed | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Dangerous firegrates rebuilt | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Yard surfaces reconstructed | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Yard walls repaired | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Insufficeint ventilation remedied | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Adequate food stores provided | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

DRAINAGE

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Choked drains cleansed | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Drains repaired or reconstructed | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| New watercloset basins fixed | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cisterns repaired | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

REFUSE RECEPTACLES, ETC.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| New dustbins provided (under notices and at private request) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 129 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Accumulations removed | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Rat infestations abated | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Dirty houses cleansed | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Nuisances from keeping animals abated | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Burst water-pipes repaired | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Stream pollution abated | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Ten complaints from tenants alleging verminous conditions were investigated and dealt with during the year.

Five Council houses and five privately-owned properties were treated with hydrocyanic acid gas; the work being done by a contractor. The Council does not undertake disinfestation work.

Frequent visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector and housing estates manager in connection with the supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation of Council properties.

The belongings of tenants rehoused from properties to be demolished were always carefully examined before removal, and in one case fumigation of the household furniture with HCN was insisted upon.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were 38 factories and workshops in the district. Particulars of inspections, defects found and remedied are given in the following tables :—

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Premises | Number of | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) | 23 | 1 | 0 |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laund's) | 51 | 5 | 0 |
| Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) | 21 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 95 | 9 | 0 |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars | Number of Defects | | | Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | |
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—* | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness ... | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Want of drainage of floors | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other nuisances ... | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sanitary accommodation :— | | | | |
| Insufficient | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unsuitable or defective | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Not separate for sexes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 |

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts

MILK SUPPLY

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, requires constant attention.

Milk, an ideal food, is also " an admirable culture medium for disease germs, and the only safe course is always to regard it as a potential source of infection and to take necessary precautions before drinking it."

Broadly speaking, the object of all milk legislation is to provide a supply clean and free from disease ; an ideal encompassed by controversy. The process of pasteurisation, for instance, is advocated by one authority and denounced by another ; specialists cannot find uniformity of opinion ; a state of affairs bewildering to the producer and consumer, to say nothing of the administrator.

Research has placed a high value on milk, and this should surely be sufficient incentive for all to be of set purpose in the desire to make the supply safe.

I am firmly convinced that milk, properly pasteurised, is safe. I am also firmly convinced that pasteurisation will never come on purely altruistic grounds.

Under existing conditions the proper control of the country's milk supply is reported to be difficult. This being so, there is apparently but one solution—controlled depots, through which all milk would pass before distribution.

The present legalised system of grading milks dates from 1922, and the current order—the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936,—describes the grades as follows :— 'Tuberculin Tested (Certified), Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised, Accredited, Accredited (bottled on the farm) and Pasteurised.

Each of these designated milks is only produced under licence, and is recognised as a better and safer milk than the ordinary raw product. But unfortunately, a bottle of graded milk costs more, and consequently a large proportion of the population is unable to afford to buy it. Thus the safer milk becomes a luxury. To the sanitarian this economic barrier is regarded with strong disfavour, and one looks forward to the time when milk will have a single defined standard for all.

During the year particular attention was given to the way in which milk was handled before distribution ; the methods of cleansing and sterilizing employed by dairymen and the construction of cowsheds.

Several dairymen were warned against the practice of depositing crates of milk bottles on footpaths and at street corners.

One cowshed was remodelled in accordance with the County Council's requirements for the production of Accredited milk, and one dairy was re-designed to include separate rooms for receiving and cooling milk and a third room for sterilising by steam.

It is estimated that over 90% of the local milk supply is produced outside the district, and of eleven samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, none revealed the presence of tubercle bacilli. Bacterial counts were, on the whole, good, and in only one case was it necessary to draw attention to faecal contamination demonstrated by the presence of bacillus coli.

REGISTRATION OF MILK PURVEYORS

There were four cowkeepers and 29 retail purveyors of milk registered at the end of the year.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, one dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk, and one dairyman was licensed to sell Accredited milk.

MEAT, ETC.

There are no registered or licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Butchers obtain their supplies from Eccles and Manchester. Frequent visits were made to the shops and, almost invariably, the meat exposed for sale was found to be of good quality.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

These were visited regularly and it was not found necessary to take any statutory action.

FOOD ADULTERATION

The administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

By the courtesy of the Superintendent of Police, the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year, are given :—

| Description | No. Taken |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Milk | 11 |
| Rice | 1 |
| Raisins | 1 |
| Egg Substitute | 1 |
| Coffee | 1 |
| Pepper | 1 |
| Camphorated Oil | 1 |
| Mixed Pickles | 2 |
| Cheese | 1 |
| Butter | 1 |
| Boiled Sweets | 1 |
| Cornflour | 1 |
| Turkey and Tongue Paste | 1 |
| Ground Ginger | 1 |
| Damson Jam | 1 |

All samples were found to be genuine.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

This Act which has been in operation since December, 1934, contains provisions for (a) regulating the hours of employment of young persons under the age of 18 years who are employed about the business of a shop or other retail business, and (b) for securing improved arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers generally.

Briefly, the provisions relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences are enforceable by the sanitary authority, the remainder of the requirements by the shops authority, which, in this district is the County Council.

The division of duties between the two authorities presented an administrative problem, but the Lancashire County Council, with the approval of the associations and authorities concerned, found a solution whereby certain local sanitary officers were appointed inspectors for the whole of the duties under the Act. The appointments were made for a preliminary period of twelve months from the 1st June, 1937.

The additional work involved in the performance of the new duties was, after due consideration and planning, incorporated into the routine of the department, and inspectorial duties were progressing satisfactorily at the end of the year.

As the scheme operates until May, 1938, details of inspections have purposely been excluded from this report. But it is intended to review the working of the scheme in full in the annual report for 1938.

With regard to the provisions of the Act respecting heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation, these were found to be satisfactorily complied with and no statutory action was necessary.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

The sanitary authority's service for the collection and disposal of refuse continued satisfactorily throughout the year, and no serious complaints were received.

The increased building activities in the district, together with the extra work involved in operating a new scheme for the removal of trade refuse, resulted in a steady expansion of the service.

The new scheme for the removal and disposal of trade refuse was approved and put into operation in April. Briefly, it provides for the removal free of charge, of refuse from shops and business premises to the extent of two regulation dustbins or equivalent quantity per week. Refuse in excess of this amount to be charged for at the rate of 3d. per bin. The scheme has operated successfully, no difficulty having been experienced in the collection of dues by means of the prepayment of ticket system.

At the end of the year there were in the district 4,206 refuse receptacles, viz., 4,101 dustbins, 83 pail closets, 20 privies and 2 dry ashpits.

Premises with movable receptacles were visited weekly and those with fixed receptacles at intervals of three or four weeks.

The general planning and layout of the district necessitates the bulk of the collection work being done in the front streets, and consequently long "carries" are inevitable. The hauls from various parts of the district vary from one half to three and a half miles.

Two S & D freighters each of 10 cubic yards capacity are used for collection work. One vehicle (rear loading) was purchased in 1935, the other (side-loading with canvas covers) in 1930.

The estimated total weight of household refuse removed during the year was approximately 3,500 tons. The estimated population being 14,360, the average weight of refuse produced per person was therefore 4.86 cwt. per annum.

The bulk of the refuse was disposed of at the salvage and incineration plant situated at the Council's sewage works, the remaining small proportion by controlled tipping to form banks for sludge lagoons.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

One hundred and forty-six calls for services were received as a result of accident or illness, and the following particulars are given of the service rendered during the year:—

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Cases Attended | Accidents ... | 57 |
| | Other cases ... | 89 |
| | Total ... | 146 |

Journeys were made to and from the undermentioned:—

| Hospitals | To | From | Total |
|-----------------------------------------|----|------|-------|
| Park Hospital, Flixton | 40 | 6 | 46 |
| Manchester Royal Infirmary | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Salford Royal Hospital | 21 | 8 | 29 |
| Ancoats Hospital, Manchester | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Northern Hospital, Manchester | — | 5 | 5 |
| Eccles & Patricroft Hospital | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Whitecross Institute, Warrington | 1 | — | 1 |
| Manchester Jewish Hospital | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hope Hospital, Salford | 1 | — | 1 |
| Stretford Memorial Hospital | 1 | — | 1 |
| Green Lane Institution | 1 | — | 1 |
| Barnes Hospital, Cheadle | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hacking Nursing Home, Manchester | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 80 | 31 | 111 |
| To or from other premises | | | 35 |
| Total | | | 146 |

The approximate total cost of the ambulance service was £285, of which £45 was recovered. The net cost to the Council was therefore approximately £240. The total mileage registered was 2,478, giving an average of 16.96 miles per journey.

REGISTER OF RAINFALL.

A 5 in. diameter rain-gauge is kept at the Council's sewage works on ground forty-two feet above sea level. The following table gives a record of the observations taken in 1937 :—

| Month | Total Rainfall ins. | No. of days rain fell | No. of days no rain |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | 2.94 | 12 | 19 |
| February | 3.93 | 22 | 6 |
| March | 1.33 | 15 | 16 |
| April | 2.44 | 18 | 12 |
| May | 1.78 | 11 | 20 |
| June | 1.24 | 7 | 23 |
| July | 2.04 | 12 | 19 |
| August | 2.41 | 9 | 22 |
| September | .59 | 7 | 23 |
| October | 1.88 | 7 | 24 |
| November | 1.45 | 7 | 23 |
| December | 1.92 | 13 | 18 |
| Totals | 23.95 | 140 | 225 |

